

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00592 191637Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /071 W
-----192220Z 010052 /63
R 191612Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5980
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0592

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PORG SF US
SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG

REF: A) STATE 087352; B) CAPE TOWN 0581

1. AT NOON TODAY I SPOKE TO FONMIN BOTHA ABOUT THE REMARKS
ATTRIBUTED TO HIM OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT AMBASSADOR YOUNG
(REF B). I TOLD HIM THAT IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
REMARKS ON APRIL 16 AFFIRMING OUR VIEW OF THE LEGITIMACY
OF SAG IT WOULD BE BEST TO PUT THIS ISSUE BEHIND US.

2. BOTHA DEFENDED HIMSELF BY SAYING THAT AMBASSADOR
YOUNG'S COMMENTS CREATED PRESSURE IN THE CABINET AND THE
COUNTRY AT LARGE TO SPEAK OUT IN DEFENSE OF SA. IN HIS
CONSTITUENCY HE WAS ALSO BEING PUSHED TO SAY WHAT HE
HAD DONE TO ANSWER AMBASSADOR YOUNG. HE NOTED THAT IN
THIS MORNING'S LOCAL PRESS FURTHER STATEMENTS ARE
ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG WHICH MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE
TO REMAIN SILENT. (HE REFERRED TO ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS AFTER A SPEECH AT A MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN
ATLANTA FOR JEWS KILLED IN WWII IN WHICH AMBASSADOR
YOUNG IS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE SAG IS "MORALLY
ILLEGITIMATE" AND "NON-REPRESENTATIVE.") FURTHERMORE,
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BOTHA SAID, THE STATEMENTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG
CREATE AN UNFAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE
FIVE-POWER TALKS AT A TIME WHEN WE NEED PUBLIC
UNDERSTANDING. HE DISCLAIMED ANY INTENT OF WANTING TO
PERPETUATE THE ISSUE. HE SAID HE WOULD REGARD OUR
CONVERSATION AS CONSTITUTING A "FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH
THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE MATTER" AND WOULD LET

MATTER STOP THERE. HE WOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING FURTHER
TO THE PRESS UNLESS ASKED, IN WHICH CASE HE WOULD CONFINE
HIS ANSWER TO SAYING THAT HE HAD TALKED TO ME WITHOUT
GIVING DETAILS. I CALLED HIS ATTENTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S
COMMENT ABOUT HIS CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN AMBASSADOR YOUNG
AS A CABINET OFFICER AND REITERATED THAT FURTHER COMMENTS
ON THIS MATTER WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE.BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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